

## Project Update: January 2009

Nan Yang and Yu Xu carried out field surveys in winter (3<sup>rd</sup> December 2008 to 9<sup>th</sup> January 2009). The objectives of the surveys were to (1) collect data about the buff-throated partridge for estimating the relative abundance in the sacred and non-sacred areas, and (2) record the bird species in the sacred and non-sacred areas, and (3) find threat factors to species, other birds and habitat.

### Estimate the relative abundance

In the results, signs were encountered less frequently in deciduous broad-leaved and coniferous mixed forests (DBCF) and oak forests (OF) than the other two vegetation types in the two areas. And encountered efficiency in DBCF in the non-sacred area was less than that in the sacred area, while for vegetation types there were not obvious differences in encountered efficiency between the two areas. The result showed that average encountered efficiency in the sacred area was slightly higher than in the non-sacred area.

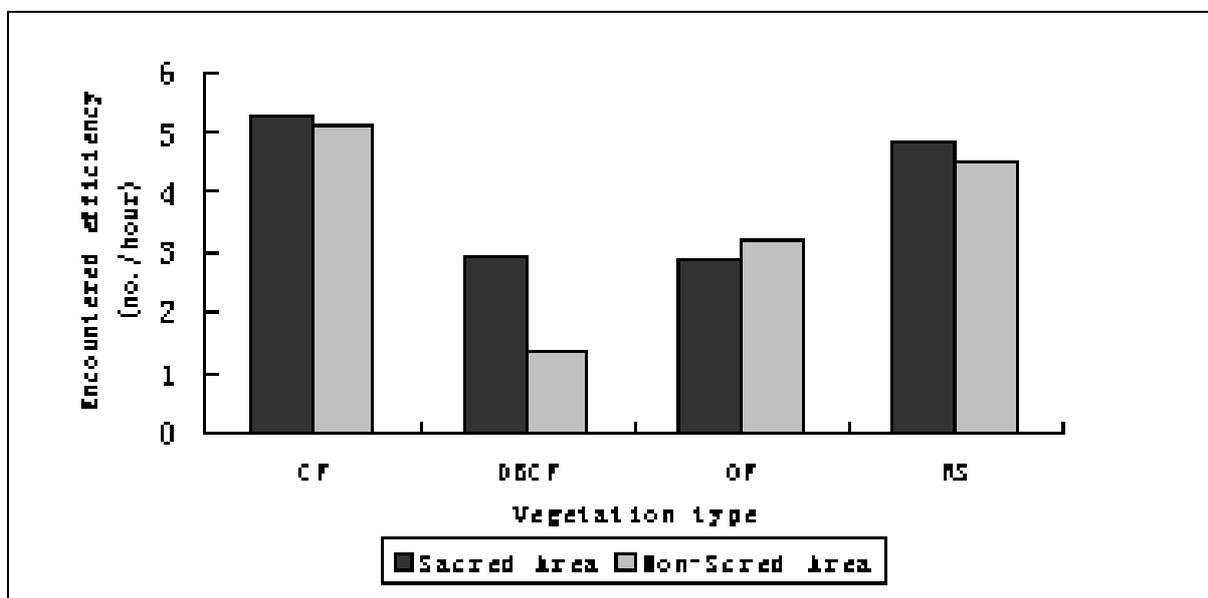


Fig.1 Encountered efficiency in different habitats in the Sacred and Non-sacred Areas, CF= Coniferous forests, DBCF=Deciduous broad-leaved and coniferous mixed forests, OF=Oak forests, RS= Rhododendron shrubberies.

### Survey bird species

Because of hard weather in the study area in this period, we just found 15 species in Sacred Area and Non-sacred Area. From table-1, we can see the species of the birds in the Sacred Area were more than the Non-sacred Area.

**Table 1 bird species recorded in the scared and non-scared areas of Pamuling in 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2008 to 9<sup>th</sup> January 2009**

Order	Family		Species	
	Sacred Area	Non-sacred Area	Sacred Area	Non-sacred Area
FALCONIFORMES	1		1	
GALLIFORMES	2	1	5	3
PASSERIFORMES	7	4	8	6
Total	9	5	14	9

**COMMENT:** Summer: 1st June to 31<sup>st</sup> September Winter: 1<sup>st</sup> October to 30<sup>th</sup> November (Because of hard weather in the study area we defined 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> April as winter)

**Pressures that they face**

We found two threat factors or pressures that they faced in this area. Such as (1) forest exploitation for fuel wood in non-scared area (Fig.1, Fig.2, Fig.3 and Fig.4), and (2) Tibetan people always set fire when they work in the field (Fig.5 and Fig.6)



**Fig.1**



**Fig.2**



**Fig.3**



**Fig.4**



**Fig.5**



**Fig.6**

**Immediate future plans include:**

1. Compile public education materials including poster flyers and brochures in January 2009 and distribute these education materials to government agencies, local NGOs, local communities, local school and tourists in March 2009;
2. Collect data of buff-throated partridges and survey bird species in February 2009;
3. Carry out publicize activities in local school;
4. Organize another meeting with the Yajiang forestry Bureau and Pamuling Monastery Wildlife Conservation Association, assess the conservation value of the culturally protected forest at Pamuling and development a management action plan for the future years.